

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET CULTURAL WEEK CELEBRATIONS IN GENOA

REF: GENOA 0141

MILAN- ALSO HOLD FOR TURIN

SUMMARY: THE SOVIETS HAVE LEFT NO STONE UNTURNED IN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE SOVIET FRIENDSHIP WEEK IN GENOA A SUCCESS. NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED WITH THE FULL ENDORSEMENT OF GENOA'S LEFTIST ADMINISTRATION WITH NO SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY BEING IGNORED. TWO EVENTS HAVE MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST FOR US. THEY ARE: (1) CONFIRMATION OF SOVIET INTEREST IN PROVIDING PARTIAL FINANCING FOR EXPANSION OF THE PORT AT VADO LIGURE (SAVONA) AND A GENOESE PROPOSAL THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDER EXPANSION OF GENOA'S PORT AS WELL; AND(2) THE APPEARANCE OF A SOVIET CULTURAL GROUP AT THE TORRINGTON PLANT WHERE IT GAVE BENEFIT PERFORMANCES FOR THE "OCCUPYING" WORKERS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CELEBRATION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "SISTER

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CITY" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ODESSA AND GENOA, THE SOVIETS SCHEDULED NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 27 AND MAY 8 IN BOTH GENOA AND NEIGHBORING SAVONA. THE EVENTS INCLUDED THE USUAL RANGE OF CULTURAL OFFERINGS FROM POPULAR FOLKLORISTIC DANCE/CHORUS GROUPS TO CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS. SOVIET FILMS AND ART ARE BEING DISPLAYED IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS AND SOVIET LECTURERS ARE ADDRESSING DIVERSE GROUPS ON SUCH SUBJECTS

AS EDUCATION, LABOR, MEDICINE, AND TRADE PROMOTION. VISITORS HAVE INCLUDED NIKITA RYJOV, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, COSMONAUT SCIONIN, CITY OFFICIALS FROM ODESSA, SCIENTISTS, ACADEMICIANS, LABOR LEADERS, PLUS NEARLY 500 ODESSA RESIDENTS WHO ARRIVED ABOARD A SPECIALLY CHARTERED SHIP. GENOA'S LEFTIST-CONTROLLED CITY ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN THE CELEBRATION A STRONG ENDORSEMENT WITH CITY COUNCILMEN APPEARING ON MANY OF THE PROGRAMS AND ASSURING "RED CARPET" TREATMENT IS EXTENDED TO THE VISITORS.

2. DURING THE TRADE PROMOTION SEMINAR, YURI KHURUMOV, DESCRIBED AS THE SOVIET COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IN ROME, CONFIRMED SOVIET INTEREST IN PROVIDING PARTIAL FINANCING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PORT FACILITIES AT VADO LIGURE, SAVONA (REFTEL). THIS REPORTEDLY PROMPTED SOCIALIST GIUSEPPE DAGNINO, PRESIDENT OF GENOA'S PORT AUTHORITY, TO INVITE THE SOVIETS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF GENOA'S NEW PORT AT VOLTRI, A PROJECT, LIKE VADO, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN ON THE DRAWING BOARD BUT LACKS THE NECESSARY FINANCING TO GET OFF THE GROUND.

3. THE SOVIETS ALSO FOUND TIME TO INSERT THEMSELVES INTO THE LONG-STANDING TORRINGTON PROBLEM BY DISPATCHING A TROUPE OF DANCERS AND SINGERS TO ENTERTAIN THE "ILLEGAL OCCUPIERS" OF THE US COMPANY'S FACILITIES. TORRINGTON'S FORMER WORKERS MAY BE ENCOURAGED BY THE SOVIET'S VISIT TO CONTINUE THEIR DEFIANCE SHOULD THE APPELLATE COURT IN JUNE UPHOLD THE EARLIER DECISION ORDERING THEM TO VACATE THE PLANT'S PREMISES.

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4. COMMENT: WITH OUR MEAGER RESOURCES, WE CANNOT MATCH THE DIMENSIONS AND VARIETY OF THE SOVIET "SHOW" IN UGURIA. OUR SELECTIVE AND MODEST EFFORTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS IN SPONSORING AND PROMOTING A NUMBER OF EVENTS (MILLIKEN UNIVERSITY JAZZ BAND, A PIANO CONCERT, 10 VOLKSPRS AND PRIVATE CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS OF US ART, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND FILMS) HAVE BARELY ENABLED US TO ACHIEVE OUR MINIMUM CULTURAL OBJECTIVES AND REACH OUR PRIMARY TARGET AUDIENCES. MUCH MORE CAN AND NEEDS TO BE DONE. WE CANNOT HOPE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, WITHOUT MORE RESOURCES AND A MORE SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM UNDER THE DIRECTION OF AN EXPERIENCED USIS OFFICER. FOR THESE REASONS, I AGAIN RESPECTFULLY BUT STRONGLY REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT AND USIA POSITIVELY AND URGENTLY RESPOND TO LAST FALL'S FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A SUITABLE BPAO TO THIS POST. DISCIULLO

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